

In the Claims:

1-8 Cancelled

9. (currently amended) Process for denitrification of exhaust gasses of an internal combustion engine operated primarily in the lean phase including the following process steps:

- placing in the exhaust gas stream of the internal combustion engine a nitrogen oxide storing and catalytically effective solid which is free of alkali earth metals, alkali metals[[,]] and rare earth, ~~silver and silver compounds~~, comprising
 - (a) a porous carrier substance and
 - (b) rhodium ~~a noble metal~~, which is provided on the porous carrier substance,
- storing nitrogen oxide during the lean motor operating phase with an air/fuel ratio $\lambda > 1$,
- releasing and catalytically converting the nitrogen oxide during the rich motor operating phase with an air/fuel ratio $\lambda < 1$,

wherein the porous carrier substance is comprised of at least 50 wt.% zirconium oxide ~~and wherein the noble metal comprises rhodium.~~

10. (currently amended) Process according to Claim 9, wherein a second noble metal or a mixture of noble metals, is

provided upon the porous carrier substance in addition to said rhodium.

11. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 9, wherein the solid is in the form of a pellet or extrudate, or is provided upon a geometric carrier.
12. (presently amended) Process according to Claim 10 [[9]], wherein the noble metals are provided as atomic mixture upon the porous carrier substance.
13. (presently amended) Process according to Claim 10 [[9]], wherein the noble metals are respectively individually applied upon the same or different porous carrier substances.
14. (original) Process according to Claim 13, wherein the noble metals are respectively individually applied upon the same or different porous carrier substances to form a powder mixture.
15. (original) Process according to Claim 13, wherein the respective noble metals applied on identical or different porous carrier substances are provided upon a geometric carrier in layers.

16. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 14, wherein the noble metals are respectively applied individually upon the same or different porous carrier substances are provided separately from each other upon different, serially arranged, geometric carriers.
17. (previously presented) Process according to Claim 10 ~~[[9]]~~, wherein said additional ~~second~~ noble metal is selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and iridium.
18. (currently amended) Process for denitrification of exhaust gasses of an internal combustion engine operated primarily in the lean phase including the following process steps:
- placing in the exhaust gas stream of the internal combustion engine a nitrogen oxide storing and catalytically effective solid which is free of alkali earth metals, alkali metals and rare earth, comprising
 - (a) a porous carrier substance and
 - (b) a noble metal, which is provided on the porous carrier substance,
 - storing nitrogen oxide during the lean motor operating phase with an air/fuel ratio $\lambda > 1$,
 - releasing and catalytically converting the nitrogen oxide during the rich motor operating phase with an air/fuel ratio $\lambda < 1$,

U.S. Application No. 09/912,004
AMENDMENT B

Attorney Docket: 3926.030

wherein the porous carrier substance has a BET of 10 to 500
m²/g and is comprised of at least 50 wt.% zirconium oxide
and wherein the noble metal comprises rhodium.